



December 2, 1999

SPIRE SOLAR CHICAGO OPENS OFFICE

Photovoltaic Systems Demand Accelerates Establishment of Business

Bedford, Massachusetts . . . 2 December 1999 . . . Spire Corporation (NASDAQ:SPIR), announced today that it has opened its ***Spire Solar Chicago*** office and is now conducting business in the State of Illinois.

Spire recently announced that it had entered into agreements with the City of Chicago and Commonwealth Edison to supply \$8 million in photovoltaic (PV) systems to those entities. In exchange for the \$8 million in orders, Spire agreed to establish a vertically integrated PV module production and systems assembly and installation business in Chicago.

Spire Solar Chicago's new office will service the initial market demand in Chicago, continue to develop a robust market for PV systems, and coordinate the installation of several ***Spire Solar Chicago*** utility-interactive systems already underway in the City. Module production is scheduled to commence in the early summer of 2000 at the permanent facility located at 445 N. Sacramento Street, Chicago, IL.

"The early and substantial interest on the part of our customers in Chicago to have PV power as soon as possible is a very encouraging sign of the market potential in the Chicago area," said Roger G. Little, Spire Corporation President and CEO. "Our new

Chicago office will ensure that we offer our customers the highest quality systems and timeliest service possible.”

Kent Whitfield, a recognized expert in PV module and systems quality standards and reliability, is responsible for onsite management of the new office. Mr. Whitfield has recently been at Underwriters Laboratories (UL), involved in the testing of PV modules and PV system components. He had previously been Laboratory Manager of the Photovoltaic Testing Laboratory (PTL) at Arizona State University. Under his leadership the PTL was the first PV test laboratory to achieve independent test lab certification from Power Mark Corporation and the first North American PV laboratory to be accredited to ISO Guide 25.

The new **Spire Solar Chicago** office is located at 7401 Wilson Avenue, Chicago, IL 60706. Phone locally at 708-867-6500 and 877-316-8300 toll free.

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Founded in 1969, Spire Corporation is the world's leading supplier of photovoltaic manufacturing equipment, turnkey production lines, and solar energy businesses.

Visit our web site at **www.spirecorp.com**

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Certain matters discussed in this news release may be forward-looking statements subject to risks and uncertainties that could cause actual results to differ materially from those indicated in the forward-looking statements. Such risks and uncertainties include, but are not limited to, the risk of dependence on government agencies and other third parties for funding contract research and services, as well as other factors described in the Company's filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

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